

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 FEA-02 AEC-11

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

FPC-01 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01

PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

FRB-03 DRC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 /170 W

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R 150740Z AUG 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2249

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG CH

SUBJECT: DIMENSIONS OF A PRC OFF-SHORE OIL RIG VISITED BY
AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM DELEGATION

REF: PEKING 1299

1. AN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER HAS PROVIDED USLO WITH
THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE CHINESE MADE
OFF-SHORE OIL RIG THAT WAS VISITED BY THE AUSTRALIAN
PETROLEUM MISSION IN LATE JULY (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO
THE OFFICER, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE DELEGATION, THE RIG WAS
OPERATING IN 200 FEET OF WATER 37 MILES FROM THE PORT OF
HSINKANG, IN THE POHAI GULF. IT WAS 197 FEET IN LENGTH,
98 FEET IN WIDTH, WITH A DEPTH OF HULL OF 16 FEET AND
DISPLACEMENT OF 5,700 TONS. THE RIG HAD A MAXIMUM
DRILLING DEPTH OF 13,124 FEET AND WAS OPERATED BY A CREW
OF 95. THE AUSTRALIANS NOTED THAT THE RIG DID NOT APPEAR
TO HAVE ADEQUATE BLOWOUT PREVENTION EQUIPMENT OR DOWN-HOLE
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TELEVISION SURVEILLANCE. IT HAD NO HELICOPTER

PAD NOR OTHER VISIBLE MEANS OF EMERGENCY EVACUATION
FOR THE CREW.

2. AT A BRIEFING GIVEN ABOARD THE RIG, THE AUSTRALIANS
WERE TOLD THAT THE CHINESE HAD DRILLED NINE OFF-SHORE
WELLS (FIVE BY THAT RIG) AND HAD FOUND "SOME OIL."
THE RIG WAS MADE IN DAIREN AND WAS SAID TO BE THE FIRST
EVER PRODUCED IN THE PRC. (COMMENT: AS OF NOW THE PRC
IS BELIEVED TO HAVE AS MANY AS FOUR SELF-MADE OFF-SHORE
RIGS OPERATING IN THE POHAI GULF; SEE HONG KONG A-156.)

3. THE AUSTRALIANS ALSO VISITED THE TACHING, PEKING
AND SHANGHAI OIL REFINERIES. THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE
TACHING REFINERY HAS AN ANNUAL CAPACITY OF 5 MILLION TONS.
THE PEKING NUMBER ONE REFINERY WHICH UTILIZES CRUDE OIL
FROM TACHING AND TAKANG HAS A CAPACITY OF 4.5 MILLION
TONS AND THE SHANGHIA REFINERY WHICH USES CRUDE FROM
TACHING HAS A CAPACITY OF FOUR MILLION TONS.
BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, VISITS, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING01397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740224-0523
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740845/aaaabmaq.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PEKING 1299
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIMENSIONS OF A PRC OFF-SHORE OIL RIG VISITED BY AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM DELEGATION
TAGS: ENRG, CH, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005